



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

tant being King's conference with Lord St. Vincent, in which the astonishing statement is made by the former that the whole of British impressments at the time the conference was held (May 13, 1803) were not more than enough to "man a single ship." There is more that is interesting on the attempted slave colonization which grew out of the Virginia insurrection of 1801, and considerable in relation to the fast-and-loose conduct of Aaron Burr towards Federalists, Hamilton going so far as to say that "our friends in Congress" were "polluting themselves with the support of the second personage for the Presidency." Gore writes that the English government are particularly nervous over Fulton's diving machines and torpedoes, as well as over the rumor that he was constructing and using a boat that was designed "to work against the stream." Anent the press of the day we have the wail of Livingston, who complains that he is being called "a fool, a lunatic, a minion, and a great many other things equally well calculated to cure me of vanity, and to raise the reputation of the country which has for upwards of thirty years successively employed me in high and confidential offices."

As in the former volumes, the editorial labor is commendably done, and we note but one typographical error, aside from that corrected by an insert, the use of the name Warmely, at page 43; for Wormely.

PAUL LEICESTER FORD.

The Life of Charles Jared Ingersoll. By his Grandson, WILLIAM M. MEIGS. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1897. Pp. 351.)

THE subject of this admirable little biography was a remarkable man—an intense American, a true believer in the capacity of the people to rule themselves, an active participant in public affairs upon occasions between 1812 and 1849; an historian as well as a statesman, an orator as well as a lawyer; a man of marked eccentricities, but of bold and original views. His career is of general as well as special interest, for he was full of fire and aggressive force, and contributed in no small degree to the development of our national self-assertion and self-reliance at critical periods. At times impulsive and indiscreet, he was always salient and fearless. His talents were of a high order, and his exertions never failed to command attention.

Although it is more than thirty years since his death, and therefore all personal recollection of him has been largely lost, yet the perpetuation of his memory is a worthy object, and the author has accomplished with skill and judgment the difficult task of reviving interest in his career. The book displays research, care in statement, good temper, impartiality, and an agreeable style. It will attract even those unacquainted with Mr. Ingersoll's name. It is an interesting contribution to our biographical literature. It enlarges, too, the general knowledge of the part played by Pennsylvania in Congress in sustaining the War Party in 1812, and traces with some minuteness the growth of an American spirit in letters, as well as politics.

Charles Jared Ingersoll was of respectable English ancestry transplanted to Massachusetts, and later to Connecticut. His grandfather was a graduate of Yale, and became a distinguished lawyer. In 1759 he was sent to England as agent for the colony of Connecticut, and to his report we owe the preservation of Barré's brilliant oratory in reply to Townshend—so dear to the school-boys of America. Some years later he lost his popularity by acting as stamp collector, and narrowly escaped violence at the hands of a mob at Wethersfield.

Jared Ingersoll, the younger, the father of the subject of the book, was also a distinguished lawyer, bred in the Middle Temple, and later one of the leaders of the old bar of Philadelphia, a framer of the Constitution of the United States, a candidate for the vice-presidency on the Federal ticket in 1812, and at his death a judge in Philadelphia. Here, in 1782, Charles Jared Ingersoll was born; his mother, Elizabeth Pettit, being the daughter of a Continental congressman.

Young Ingersoll was soon introduced to distinguished company, and met many of the leading men of the day. While quick in learning, he lacked application, and left Princeton owing to some dispute with the authorities, but not involving collegiate censure. He travelled somewhat in his own country, wrote a tragedy, contributed a poem to the *Portfolio*, and was admitted to the bar while not twenty years of age. He then went abroad, and formed an agreeable and useful connection of intimacy with the well known Rufus King. In Paris he contracted strong Gallican sympathies, which, with what he saw later in England, gave him a bias which materially affected his subsequent public views. On his return he devoted himself sedulously to the labors of his profession, and served for a time as clerk of one of the courts.

In 1808 he published a pamphlet entitled *A View of the Rights and Wrongs, Power and Policy of the United States of America*, and fearlessly criticised the tendency to admire everything English at the expense of America. His views were regarded by many as audacious as well as peculiar; but, daunted in no respect, in 1811 he published *Inchiquin, the Jesuit's Letters*, a spirited defense of American character, a book which created a stir in those days, provoking the attack of the British *Quarterly Review*. By this time he had broken away from the views of the strict Federalists, and it is not surprising to find him uniting himself most ardently with the "War Hawks" and sustaining, by voice and pen, the war measures of Madison. In the fall of 1812 he was elected to Congress at the age of thirty, but so youthful in appearance was he that he was denied admittance by the door-keeper. Here he spoke with great freedom and met with plainness Mr. Webster's views of New England opposition involving threats of disunion. He spoke also upon the draft of the militia, upon the loan bill, and the right of search, and poured forth a torrent of invective against the English for their inhuman use of their Indian allies. He insisted upon the regulation of the British extension by construction of blockade; upon a limitation of their inordinate catalogue of contraband; upon no search for men, and upon a

qualified ascertained and moderate search for things. He collided severely with Stockton, of New Jersey, and maintained himself with commendable ability. We cannot too much admire this portion of his career. It deserves the study of all those students, even in New England, who, under the lead of Schouler, are willing to throw aside local prejudices and examine questions broadly.

Failing to secure a re-election because of the defeat of his party, Mr. Ingersoll retired in 1814 from the arena of Congress to assume the duties of United States district attorney, succeeding Mr. Dallas, who had been appointed Secretary of the Treasury. He held his place for fourteen years, a term of service never equalled by any other district attorney, and entered upon a long period of great activity at the bar. He was a hard worker, and a dangerous opponent, and there are many traditions repeated by very old men of his brilliancy and force as an orator. He corresponded actively with Madison, Monroe, Dallas, Rufus King and Richard Rush, then minister to England, and gave to the last named, in the form of a diary, a most lifelike series of sketches of men and events which are valuable as contemporaneous portraiture of the time. At the same time he delivered and published historical commemorative addresses. He advocated internal state improvements, canals and roads, and was far in advance in support of railroads, then of unknown merit. He took high ground in favor of the tariff, and at the same time was in favor of extending our commerce with foreign countries by exchanging commodities on the basis of equality, thus anticipating in a high degree the reciprocity of our day. In 1830-31 he served a single term in the state assembly, and was an unsuccessful candidate for the Senate of the United States. He became an ardent supporter of Jackson, of whom he said: "by the master stroke of a mere toast he *nullified the nullification* he was invited to magnify;" and this, notwithstanding the fact that he had been removed from his office of district attorney by Jackson, because of charges which he subsequently met with success, and notwithstanding his difference of view as to the Bank of the United States. The part Mr. Ingersoll took in the burning questions of the day is well and clearly told, and the development of his views upon matters of finance is sketched in strong lines. In 1837 he was a member of the state constitutional convention, and addressed himself to the improvement of the public school system, and the judiciary. The latter, he argued, should be "independent but not irresponsible." He fought the doctrines of the Dartmouth College case in the matter of corporations, and also took strong ground against inconvertible paper money. As a hard-money democrat he was defeated in 1836 for Congress, but was successful, after an intermediate defeat, in 1841. For eight years he held his place, and took a leading part in the discussion of the Federal-Treasury system, the banking system, Texas and the Mexican War, slavery, the disputes with England over the case of the *Caroline*, the Oregon boundary, and the North-eastern boundary. He served on the judiciary committee, and was chairman of the committee on foreign affairs. He strongly advocated

the annexation of Texas, and argued against the views of Abolitionists as fraught with ruin to the country. On this point his biographer defends him against the views of Schouler and Von Holst. This portion we consider the least satisfactory of the book. In the case of the Caroline and the boundary disputes he scoured the timidity of Webster, and later came into direct conflict with him, charging the improper retention and expenditure of public funds belonging to the secret service. Upon this matter he preferred charges, which an investigating committee, while perfunctorily exonerating Webster, left open to the inference that they were not unfounded. It was unfortunate that the attack was made; it is an instance of Mr. Ingersoll's indiscretion, for whatever the foundation the fact remains that Mr. Webster was too important and influential a character to be publicly immolated. Mr. Webster's escape was largely due to the action of Jefferson Davis. In the spring of 1847 Mr. Ingersoll was nominated by Polk for the French mission, but failed of confirmation in the Senate, on the representation by Webster that his success would be an endorsement of the charges against himself. With the expiration of the Thirtieth Congress Mr. Ingersoll retired from public life at the age of sixty-seven, and devoted himself to the practice of the law, and to historical work. He published a *History of the War of 1812*, a volume of *Recollections*, and a pamphlet upon *African Slavery in America*, aiming to avoid the fermentation of excitement. He spent much time in the company of exiled French officers who sought, with Joseph Bonaparte, an asylum in Philadelphia—Grouchy, Clausel, Bernard, Desnouettes, Vandamme and others. The well-known Mrs. Maury gives charming descriptions of his attractive personality, while Judge Sharswood and others describe him as an extraordinary advocate at the bar. He affected some oddities in dress, but was always welcome in society as an interesting talker. He deprecated late in life the abolition movement, and advocated the election of Breckenridge and Lane, but when the shock of war came he approved of Mr. Lincoln's call for volunteers and was a friend of the Union, while disapproving of ultra measures. But he was an old man, who had long outlived his contemporaries in active life, and expired in 1862, when nearly eighty years of age.

Mr. Meigs has given us an interesting and useful book, which can be read with profit. It is free from partisanship, and while at times it lacks spirit in the narrative, it is on the whole a judicious and well-executed biography.

HAMPTON L. CARSON.

Ulysses S. Grant, and the Period of National Preservation and Reconstruction. By W. C. CHURCH, Brevet Lieutenant Colonel U. S. Vols. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1897. Pp. xi, 473.)

General Grant. By JAMES GRANT WILSON. (New York: D. Appleton and Co. 1897. Pp. vi, 390.)